

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
MACON DIVISION**

MICHAEL LONDON,	:	
	:	
Plaintiff	:	
	:	
vs.	:	
	:	
MRS. COOPER, <i>et al.</i> ,	:	NO. 5:08-CV-249 (HL)
	:	
Defendants	:	<u>ORDER</u>

Plaintiff **MICHAEL LONDON**, an inmate at the Coffee Correctional Facility in Nicholls, Georgia, has filed a *pro se* handwritten “Tort Complaint.” Parties instituting any non-habeas civil actions are required to pay a filing fee of \$350.00. 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a). Because plaintiff has failed to pay the required filing fee, the Court assumes that he wishes to proceed *in forma pauperis* in this action.

Under the “three strikes” provision of the Prison Litigation Reform Act (“PLRA”), a prisoner is generally precluded from proceeding *in forma pauperis* if at least three prior lawsuits or appeals by the prisoner were dismissed as frivolous, malicious or failing to state a claim upon which relief may be granted. 28 U.S.C. §1915(g). Dismissal without prejudice for failure to exhaust administrative remedies and dismissal for abuse of judicial process are also properly counted as strikes. *See Rivera v. Allin*, 144 F.3d 719 (11th Cir. 1998). Section 1915(g) provides an exception to the three strikes rule, under which an inmate may proceed *in forma pauperis* if he alleges he is in “imminent danger of serious physical injury.” The prisoner must allege a present imminent danger, as opposed to a past danger, to proceed under section 1915(g)’s imminent danger exception. *Medberry v. Butler*, 185 F.3d 1189, 1193 (11th Cir. 1999).

The Eleventh Circuit has upheld the constitutionality of section 1915(g) in concluding that section 1915(g) does not violate an inmate’s right of access to the courts, the doctrine of separation

of powers, an inmate's right to due process of law, or an inmate's right to equal protection. **Rivera**, 144 F.3d at 721-27.

A review of court records on the U.S. District Web PACER Docket Report reveals that plaintiff has exceeded "strikes" allowed by the PLRA to a prisoner attempting to proceed *in forma pauperis* in a federal civil lawsuit. *See London v. Baker*, 1:05-cv-2531-CC (N.D. Ga. Oct. 20, 2005); *London v. Baker*, 5:04-cv-50-WTM (S.D. Ga. Sept. 16, 2004); *London v. Battle*, 5:00-cv-102 (WDO) (M.D. Ga. Sept. 1, 2000); and *London v. Leager*, 1:99-cv-2695-CC (N.D. Ga. Nov. 10, 1999).

As plaintiff has four strikes, he cannot proceed *in forma pauperis* in the instant case unless he can show that he qualifies for the "imminent danger of serious physical injury" exception of section 1915(g). Plaintiff's claims do not remotely approach allegations of "imminent danger of serious physical injury." Moreover, if plaintiff wishes to file a claim alleging that he is in "imminent danger of serious physical injury," the proper venue for such claim is the Southern District of Georgia, where the Coffee Correctional Facility is located, not this district.

Because plaintiff has more than three prior strikes and is not under imminent danger of serious injury, his request to proceed *in forma pauperis* is **DENIED** and the instant action is **DISMISSED** without prejudice. If plaintiff wishes to bring a new civil rights action, he may do so by submitting new complaint forms and the entire \$350.00 filing fee at the time of filing the complaint. As the Eleventh Circuit stated in *Dupree v. Palmer*, 284 F.3d 1234, 1236 (11th Cir. 2002), a prisoner cannot simply pay the filing fee after being denied *in forma pauperis* status; he must pay the filing fee at the time he initiates the suit.

SO ORDERED, this 1st day of August, 2008.

s/ *Hugh Lawson*
HUGH LAWSON
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

cr